

**SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD
SECTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ANALYSIS**

POST ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS IN STB DOCKET NO. AB-6 (Sub-No. 456X)

September 18, 2007

ABANDONMENT TYPE

The time for comments on the Environmental Assessment (EA) has expired in this:

☒ (X) Notice of Exemption ☐ () Petition for Exemption ☐ () Regulated Abandonment

☐ () **NO NEW COMMENTS WERE RECEIVED**

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SEA served an Environmental Assessment (EA) for this proceeding on August 31, 2007 for public review and comment. In the EA, SEA recommended three environmental conditions and concluded that the proposed action would not significantly impact the quality of the human environment.

Comments

SEA received one comment after issuance of the EA. The National Geodetic Survey commented that no geodetic station markers have been identified that may be affected by the proposed abandonment.

Conclusions

The EA comment period has ended. Accordingly, SEA recommends that the following conditions previously recommended in the EA should be imposed upon any decision granting abandonment authority:

1. BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) shall be prohibited from performing any salvage activities and consummating abandonment until completion of the Section 7 consultation process of the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1535) with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). BNSF shall consult with Board's Section of Environmental Analysis (SEA) and USFWS to develop appropriate mitigation measures if necessary. BNSF shall report the results of any consultation with USFWS in writing to SEA.

2. To ensure appropriate consideration of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) requirements, BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) shall consult with the California Regional Water Quality Control Board prior to commencement of any salvage activities and shall comply with the reasonable NPDES requirements.
3. Prior to consummation of the abandonment, BNSF Railway Company (BNSF) shall consult with the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) regarding PUC's concerns that abandoned track could cause safety hazards on roadways. BNSF shall report the results of this consultation to the Section of Environmental Analysis in writing.

If the above condition is imposed, SEA believes that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment.

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